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23 July 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Services Group, NPIC

SUBJECT : Suggested Letter to TOPOCOM Regarding Data Block Reader

1. Discussions between [redacted] and myself divulged the following exploitation procedures to be employed at NPIC as far as the 12 inch, [redacted] stellar/terrain camera is concerned:

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a. NPIC will receive two copies of the terrain materials for search and one copy of stellar exposures (see attached cable).

b. To meet mensuration requirements, there are two alternatives: (1) manually read the time word in the data block and reduce the stellar data for attitude, or (2) read the attitude and time directly from the data block once the SPARS is operational. (It is being assumed that there will not be many requirements for highly accurate mensuration because the ground resolution will be between 25 to 30 feet.)

c. NPIC requirements to maintain the National Data Base can be met by waiting for TOPOCOM to read the data block (assuming that a data block reader is fabricated). In this respect, it is possible that the fabrication of a data block reader could be TOPOCOM's responsibility or it could be a joint effort between TOPOCOM and NPIC. TOPOCOM may even prefer that the instrument be located at NPIC; that's to be determined.

d. In the event of a telemetry failure in terms of the stellar/terrain ephemeris, it is still possible to use the panoramic ephemeris for vehicle position; i.e., latitude, longitude and altitude, and read the time word on a particular stellar/terrain exposure and extrapolate for the terrain exposure position. All the other parameters would be available as stated in 1b above.

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2. [] informs me that it is not possible to convert the Multi-Format Data Block (MFDB) reader to accommodate the location of the stellar/terrain data block.

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3. It is probably prohibitive (cost wise and design wise) to change the location of the stellar/terrain data block to conform to the MFDB or to attempt to implant sensors into the stellar/terrain camera for telemetry purposes in order to include the data block information in the stellar/terrain ephemeris. The above will be confirmed by SAMSO on our next visit. I believe it will be more expensive to make the above configuration changes to the stellar/terrain system than it would be to fabricate a data block reader.

4. I agree with [] last statement in his memorandum "...the letter still begs the question. All we need is a decision: yes or no." I recommend that we hold this until we have talked to SAMSO. The information derived from SAMSO will enable a more definitive statement to TOPOCOM.

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Chief, Technical Operations Staff,
TSG/NPIC

Attachment:
PPBS Draft

Distribution:

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